

Hedenbergite - $\text{CaFe}^{2+}\text{Si}_2\text{O}_6$

Hardness: 5.5 - 6.5. Cleavage: Distinct/good. Excellent resistance to acids. A sample from China with a light brown crust was treated with concentrated HCl for two days, resulting in a pleasing green color but much silica was dissolved; sample was most likely ilvaite replacing hedenbergite. White coating forms over 24 hours with NH_4HF_2 . Mostly stable to hot alkali but some luster lost.

References

Mindat: <https://www.mindat.org/min-1842.html>

Handbook of Mineralogy: <https://www.handbookofmineralogy.org/pdfs/hedenbergite.pdf>

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Nicastro, I. (2022) Adventures with acid cleaning 'hedenbergite'.

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Sinkankas, J. (1972) Gemstone & Mineral Data Book, 346 p. Winchester Press, New York.